

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended so as to address this rejection. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 1-14 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, or to address issues related to patentability, and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,187. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15 and 17 of copending Application No. 09/910,733. Claims 1-14 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of copending Application No. 09/910,711.

Enclosed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer linking the present application to the above-identified patent and copending applications. As a result, withdrawal of these obviousness-type double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Taira (US 6,617,189). This rejection is respectfully traversed and submitted to be inapplicable to the claims for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over Taira, since claim 1 recites an optical disc including, in part, a time map area having recorded therein a table showing recording addresses of data units, the recording addresses corresponding to a plurality of reproduction times that belong to a period during which a video object is reproduced, each of the data units containing a picture to be reproduced at a corresponding one of the plurality of reproduction times, and a program chain area having recorded therein a plurality of sets of cell information, each of which includes a start time and an end time which are used to identify a reproduction section in the video object, the

plurality of sets of cell information being recorded in correspondence with reproduction orders. Taira fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 1.

Taira discloses a recording medium having a data area including a video object and a program chain information table defining at least two program chains. The video object includes a number of cells, each of the cells includes a number of video object units, and each of the video object units includes a navigation pack. The navigation pack includes first control information having a start time and an end time of the presentation of the video object unit and second control information having search addresses of the video object unit and an end address of the last pack in the video object unit. The program chain information table includes a number of program chain items associated with the program chains, each of the program chain items including (1) cell playback information specifying a playback order of video data cells in the program chain, and (2) content information describing the number of cells in the program chain. (See column 34, line 61 – column 35, line 57; column 47, line 43 – column 49, line 54; and Figures 28, 63 and 64).

In the rejection, the navigation pack of Taira including the first control information having a start time and an end time of the presentation of the video object unit and the second control information having search addresses of the video object unit and an end address of the last pack in the video object unit is indicated as corresponding to the claimed time map area. However, it is noted that while the first control information in the navigation pack includes the start and end times of the video object unit and the second control information having search addresses of the video object unit, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the navigation pack provides any correspondence between the search addresses and reproduction times. Instead, the only time information included in the navigation pack are the start and end times of the video object unit as a whole.

Further, the program chain information table including the number of program chain items is indicated as corresponding to the claimed program chain area. However, the program chain information table of Taira defines the playback order of the video data cells based only on the start addresses of the first and last video object units located in each of the video data cells. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the program chain information table includes start and end times as are recited as being included in the program chain area of claim 1.

As a result of the above discussion, it is submitted that claim 1 is clearly patentable over Taira.

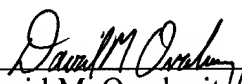
As for claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, they are patentable over Taira for reasons similar to those discussed above in support of claim 1. That is, each of these claims recites, in part, a table showing recording addresses of data units, the recording addresses corresponding to a plurality of reproduction times that belong to a period during which a video object is reproduced, each of the data units containing a picture to be reproduced at a corresponding one of the plurality of reproduction times, which feature is not disclosed or suggested by Taira.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-14 are allowable over the reference relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-14. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-14 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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